

Abstract

A master node in a packet ring network periodically sends a packet
5 containing a discovery marker into the packet ring network. As each node in turn
receives the packet, each adds its own discovery marker, which contains its topology
information, to the packet, saves the topology information of others, and resends the
packet to the next node in the ring. Eventually, the master node receives the packet
10 containing a chain of discovery markers for all active nodes terminated by the
master's own discovery marker, so the master node then removes its own discovery
marker and resends the packet in to the ring network. Each node in turn then
removes its own discovery marker. In this way, all nodes in the ring see topology
information for every other active node.

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EL721274619US

Date of Deposit: June 27, 2001

This paper or fee is being deposited on the date indicated above with
the United States Postal Service pursuant to 37 CFR 1.10, and is
addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application,
Washington, D.C. 20231.